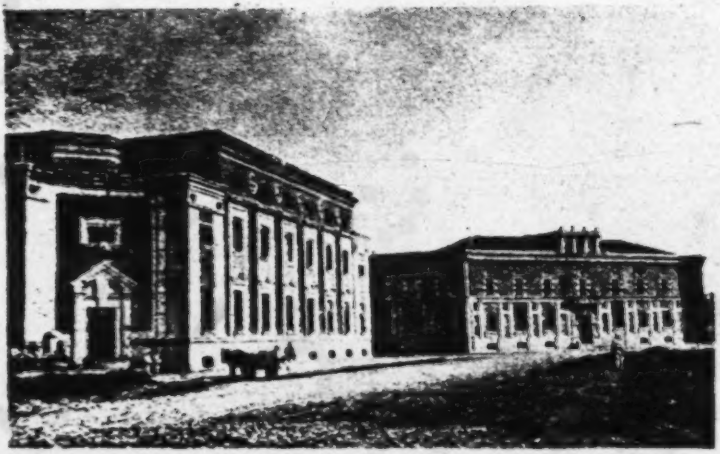
3: Redlich S-3 (no date) 1936 EG1 Albania EG/



TWO OF THE SEVERAL NEW GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN TIRANA

(facing p. 76)

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this height have the appearance of a colorful checkerboard of the gods.

Tirana also has many modern boulevards, recently laid, equalling the cement boulevards of any cosmopolitan city, as well as all the modern conveniences that one finds in other capitals of the world.

In the large city park, music is provided every afternoon by the Royal Court Orchestra and where people promenade to the strains of Beethoven, Puccini, Strauss and Wagner.

In the center of Tirana is located the beautiful Royal Palace, lying in the midst of an immense, well-cared for garden. This garden is one of the show places of Tirana and has a large collection of rare flowers.

Also in the central part of the city in a vast square are to be found a group of modern and most convenient office buildings, wherein the various departments of the government—the Prime Minister's office, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for Interior Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of National Economy, the Ministry of Public Instructions, the Ministry of Public Works, the Parliament and others—are housed.

All foreign legations, except that of Great

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Alessio

361 NOTHER city wealthy with memories of the past is Alessio (Lesh), the ancient Lissos, situated southward from Scutari on the left bank of the Drin River. This city still lives in the shadows of its ancient glory; the great ruins of her ancient [344] Acropolis and the strong, old Citadel sur- [346] round the present-day St. Nicholas Church which is built on the same spot where the St. Nicholas Cathedral stood, which was Scan- [778] derbeg's burial place in 1468. Sometime after Scanderbeg had been laid to rest here, the Turks, entering Alessio, made his tomb a place of veneration.

It was to this town that the chieftains of central Albania invited Scanderbeg to come when they offered him their allegiance. This great warrior had many faithful followers among the families of Alessio, and upon one of his visits, twenty-five years after he first went to Alessio to become their ruler, Scanderbeg died here.

Alessio (Lesh in the Albanian language)

6: Lane T-3 (no date) 1923 EGl Albania EGl

excited either by statesmen or soldiers. Perhaps six scientists and business men are my heroes. Why, then, after three minutes of talk with Ahmet Bey Mati, did I add to that short list this mountain chief of semisavage tribes, who certainly knew nothing either of science or of modern business?

Government House in Tirana is an old residence, hurriedly converted into offices. It stands at the end of a street, in a courtyard surrounded by a high mud-brick wall rather badly broken at intervals. A mountain man with a rifle sits at the big gate. Another guard, even more gorgeous in white wool, scarlet jacket, and gold embroidery, stands on the wooden porch. Inside, the bare wooden floors, partitions, and stairways suggest a Middle Western American barn. Parliament Hall is furnished with school desks for the members, and a red-covered dais for the President, with the Scanderbeg flag above it, are bright colors against whitewashed walls. The offices are nondescript with overstuffed Italian furniture and fine Albanian rugs. Cigarettes are on the desks, coffee is served to callers, and my feminine experience of interviews was that facts must be fought for against a barrage of French compliments.

We had been in Tirana two days and could not put a finger on any fact to account for the distinct uneasiness we felt. We were tormented by a wholly irrational feeling that, somehow, somewhere, something was wrong. Everything